

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 6, 7, and 11-13 and cancel claims 4, 5, and 14. Thus, claims 1-3, 6-13, 15 and 16 are pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 5-7 and 14-16 recite allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, and as proposed during the June 20 telephone interview, Applicants amend claims 1 and 11 to incorporate the allowable features of claim 5 and intervening claim 4 and amend claim 13 to include the allowable features of claim 14. Applicants also amend claims 6 and 7 to correct their dependency. Thus, as indicated by Examiner Doan on June 21, once she had considered Applicants' proposal, all of pending claims 1-3, 6-13, and 14-16 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the above amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments (a) place the application in condition for allowance; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the claims are allowable); (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Thus, as agreed to by Examiner Doan on June 21, the amendments should be entered.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 8-13 over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2004/0057731 to Ozeki et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, Applicants amend claims 1 and 11 to incorporate the allowable features of claim 5 and intervening claim 4; amend claim 13 to include the allowable features

of claim 14; and amend claims 6 and 7 to correct their dependency. Thus, the rejection is moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 6-13, 15 and 16.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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